

MS. BEST: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Diana Best. I'm a Senior and Co-Campaigner with Greenpeace U.S.A. I just want to take a minute and thank you so much for this opportunity to directly address you. I think this public process is so critical as we move through and look at reforms that are needed with the Federal Coal Program. We are living in a radically different world when it comes to the coal market than we were five years ago.

Not just here in the United States, but globally around the world, we've seen countries like China, the largest consumer of coal, make rapid and radical steps to reduce their coal consumption.

They're moving away from coal in a, in a very quick way. That's contributing to the collapse in the Pacific Realm coal prices and making it very difficult for the U.S. coal to be able to compete on a global market in a significant way.

Many Wall Street, as we referred earlier, many Wall Street banks, analysts, and rating agencies are saying that, in fact, this is a sign of structural decline of the coal industry. And that a significant rebound is not likely. We're already feeling the impacts here in our mining sector. And we must accept that significant changes must occur. We cannot go backwards.

But, how we weather this period of transition is absolutely critical. It's going to take full forward looking and decisive action from our officials. And the reforms, I believe, should be included in this program review is, one, incorporating the social cost of carbon.

It absolutely needs to be factored into how we price our Federal taxpayer on coal. The Federal Government already has a working and established price for the social cost of carbon. And I believe that must be applied to the Federal Coal Program immediately.

Coal companies have been allowed to privatize the profits while socializing the cost of damages associated with climate. This could be applied as a carbon adder in a royalty rate or through another vehicle.

But, coal companies that want to mine Federal coal, must also account for the cost to the climate. The second reform is coal companies must be held fully accountable for the cleaning up of their mine site, so the significant reclamation cost and responsibility isn't left to taxpayers. This could include denying any and future -- any

future coal leases for coal companies that have failed to reclaim mind sites and/or taking back undeveloped leases if companies have failed to make good on reclamation commitments.

Dozens of coal companies that we've heard today have already filed for bankruptcy, including three of the four large Powder River Basin companies. Yet these same companies are continuing to pursue lease applications and new modification.

I believe this is unacceptable. If you can't cover the existing cost, you can't continue to grow your operation banking on a public bailout.

The third piece reform that I would suggest here is that we also need a well-resourced plan to support a just transition for coal workers and traditional mining communities. And I'm out of time.

I would just say this is a huge opportunity for us to set us on a new course of how we redefine how we want to use and manage and preserve our national taxpayer-owned resources. Thank you.